



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 21, 2014
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Decision Notice Issued on EA for the Development of the Gateway and Confluence Areas at Milltown State Park

(Missoula, MT) - Montana State Parks (stateparks.mt.gov) announced today that a Decision Notice has been issued on the Environmental Assessment (EA) for development of the Gateway and Confluence Areas at the new Milltown State Park. The decision is to pursue the park development in the Milltown Gateway and Confluence Areas, pending resolution of access issues. By notification of this Decision Notice, the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) is hereby made the Final EA.

Under the proposal, Montana State Parks would construct trails, parking areas, viewpoints, river access points and related public access and user facilities in the Milltown Gateway and Confluence Areas.

The proposed development would provide the initial infrastructure essential to protect public safety and park resources.

Funding for the initial phase of the park development would be provided through the Montana Natural Resource Damage Program, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The public comment process for the proposed project was from January 24, 2014 through February 24, 2014. The proposal received 23 comments: 10 were supportive of the proposed project, one against, and 12 comments discussed general park management or additional topics.

To view the Decision Notice and Draft/Final EA click on:

http://stateparks.mt.gov/news/publicNotices/environmental-assessments/pn_0020.html or
visit stateparks.mt.gov and click on "public notices".

This action is subject to appeal, and must be submitted to the Parks Division Administrator (at 1420 E. 6th Avenue in Helena, MT 59620) in writing and postmarked within 30 days of this decision notice (by May 21). The appeal must specifically describe the basis for appeal, explain how the appellant has previously commented to the Department or participated in the decision making process and explain how FWP might address the concerns of the appeal.

The Decision Notice pertains to the EA conducted as part of the Montana Environmental Policy Act. The Milltown project was also reviewed under the National Environmental Policy Act because of the HUD funding. Missoula County, in its capacity as Responsible Entity under 24 CFR Part 58 relative to Economic Development Initiative funding at Milltown State Park, has also determined that this project will have no significant impacts on the human environment, and submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development a Request for Release of Funds. HUD, upon receipt of the request for release of funds, will accept objections to its release of funds and Missoula County's certification for a period of fifteen days. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and may be addressed to: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Region VIII Office, 8ADE, 1670 Broadway Street, Colorado 80202-4801.

For directions or more information about Milltown State Park visit:

<http://stateparks.mt.gov/milltown/>

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